



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 17, 2005

CONTACT: Josh Holly (202) 225-2539

Hunter Calls on America to “Hold Steady” in Iraq

Washington, D.C. --- U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) today released the following statement amid Democratic calls for an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Iraq:

“Every military operation has two major phases. The first is the initial attack, which is accompanied by high patriotism, flag waving and buoyant support for the troops. The second phase is the most difficult. It is the time of mounting casualties, small gains and a diminishment in political support.

“It is the second phase that we are now experiencing in Iraq. Our troops are fighting well. The Iraqi military is standing up, taking on more of the security burden daily. The fragile political system in Iraq is moving slowly toward its desired goals.

“Now is the time for endurance. It is a quality that the world believes has disappeared in America. Well, endurance has not disappeared. We have pursued the terrorists since September 11th on 10,000 foot mountain ranges, killed them in 10 foot gun battles in Fallujah and ‘safe’ houses in Mosul.

“Our troops have shown toughness and resiliency that the terrorists thought we lost long ago. Our volunteer forces have undertaken two and three tours into what the media daily depicts as a ‘hell hole’ and yet our troops still see value in their mission.

“That’s because there is value in this mission. We’ve kept the enemy off-balance in the war against terror. That’s why four years have passed and Americans are able to go to work, walk in parks, attend schools and live life without a second attack of September 11th magnitude on our homeland.

“We learned one thing from September 11th. It was this – unless we change the world, the world will change us. And the freeing of the Iraqi people is a major change in the world.

“In World War I, World War II and the Cold War, we freed hundreds of millions of people and in doing so we made our own future more secure. That is what we are doing in Iraq. By freeing Iraq and building a friend in the Middle East in place of an enemy, we are securing a better future for our own country.

“The Iraqi military is standing up. It a slow and difficult process, but there are no shortcuts and the training skills of our troops are being reflected in the increasing capability of the Iraqi forces.

“All the burdens of the operation remind us of one thing. Freedom isn’t easy. But changing the world to freedom is our best hope of securing the future. We must hold steady. We must endure. We must finish the job in Iraq.”

#

<http://armedservices.house.gov/>